

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 655

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN CANDIDATE FOR UN COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

REF: STATE 185272

1. PARA 11 REFTEL MENTIONED THAT AMBASSADOR TRUCCO HAD LEFT A NOTE REQUESTING US SUPPORT FOR FERNANDO ORREGO VICUNA AS A MEMBER OF THE UN COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES TELL US THAT THE CHILEANS MEANT TO NOMINATE FRANCISCO ORREGO VICUNA, FERNANDO'S SON.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE 70 YEAR OLD FERNANDO WAS A RESPECTED DIPLOMAT IN HIS DAY BUT THAT HE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY INFORM SINCE HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN 1964. FRANCISCO, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOWS EVERY EVIDENCE OF BEING AN INTELLIGENT, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND DYNAMIC PERSONALITY WHOSE CANDIDACY WOULD MERIT OUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. HEAD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HE WILL BE KNOWN TO MEMBERS OF OUR LOS DELEGATION SINCE HE SERVES AS A CHILEAN ADVISER. ONLY 34, HE HAS A SOLID REPUTATION HERE AS A SCHOLAR IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY HE COOPERATES WITH THE INCUMBENT REGIME (UNLIKE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER CLAUDIO, AND OUTSPOKEN CRISTIAN DEMOCRAT), FRANCISCO CAN BE REFRESHINGLY CANDID IN HIS ASSESSMENTS OF THE LOCAL SCENE.
POPPER

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